

PLATFORM: Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates - BC Election 2020



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Independent

Born in Ukraine. Moved to Canada in 1996. In BC since 2014. In the West Vancouver-Capilano area since 2015. I'm an IT professional with a full time job and an average North Shore income and lifestyle. On the strata council in my building. Very active implementing no smoking bylaws in my building and encouraging the same in the entire 6 tall buildings of the Woodcroft complex. I absolutely love living on the North Shore. Preserving this piece is important while providing support for the evolution of this city is an order. Primary goal is to work with all business sectors and city residents to gather solutions that can be tested for implementation. Then actually implement them.

QUESTION 1. *Impacts of COVID.* The availability of rapid COVID testing is a critical issue for local business as they work to ensure a safe work environment for their staff and customers. Staff/kids are back...Businesses need their staff back at work, staff need to get back to work. Given the economic impact of uncertainty around COVID in the workplace, what would you do to address the ongoing availability of rapid COVID testing?

AS Response: The question is placed in such a way that assumes 100% of the population must be tested for COVID before we can continue living. If the results of COVID testing provide factual solutions to current economical and psychological disaster then billions of dollars that came out of your income can resolve this task fast. Now it is my turn to ask a question. After you get results of testing then what? Resources were used for testing that will be outdated in a matter of weeks. With my limited knowledge in this area I would propose a different action plan altogether. Ask epidemiology and statistics experts for projections using available data today. Give them sample areas to test that can be done within 7 days. Then expect a report in 24 hours. 100% COVID testing tasks may continue while a usable report is in front of us. This model will remove the wait time and resource waste on 100% answers that will be outdated on a daily basis. At the same time, interview local businesses asking for their solution to the current situation instead of waiting for test results and introducing further delays. Emphasis on living right now with current restrictions. Being prepared for the worst while hoping for the best.

QUESTION 2. *Costs on Business.* Many small businesses are desperately trying to get their customers back. They are struggling to find ways to get the revenue they need to survive through COVID. We see the increasing burden on business related to costs that government can control such as Property Tax Assessments and the Employee Health Tax. What would you do to help keep the costs for business down so they can maintain the jobs they provide and survive this tremendous downturn?

AS Response: First people to ask for solutions are the businesses themselves. Then the city, province and federal government. “What is your solution?” Businesses can provide answers in 48 hours then a stack of suggestions can be complete in 10 days. This can be put on review and start experiment testing solutions on a small scale while better solutions are being worked on by proper teams. Create a “think tank” from people that don’t work anyways and give them a task of testing solutions. Somebody needs to review the #1, #2, #3 costs to business. Where optimisation and cost reduction is possible. If business income is down by 75% then there is “free” money from the government. This does not promote a business to work if they are close to 75% mark. Resources must be put into helping businesses to adapt and evolve instead of giving free money that will actually cost more to everybody in the long run. Increase tax on imported products to stimulate local production. Reduce property taxes provided that essential city services remain adequate. Optimisation within city structures to maximise received taxes from the city that is in economic fall.

QUESTION 3. *Transportation & Housing. Employees working in North Vancouver are not able to find reasonable transportation or affordable local housing options. Businesses are suffering, choosing to move, or simply closing as a result. What would you do to ensure transportation and affordable housing investments are made to support the needs of the community and the future of our local small businesses?*

AS Response: This is not a new question and was here for many years. The question is magnified by the current economic situation. A history of projects and proposals needs to be reviewed to even start thinking about what to do today about this. I don’t have an actual solution to this question but the city council and transit have some great answers and experience right here in this area. This will be a long conversation with experts in the field before reasonable solutions are presented to the public for approvals, suggestions, city council reviews and only then support from MLA. MLA is not here to tell what people must do and how they have to live. MLA is to provide needed support when the city is unable to resolve but wants to.

QUESTION 4. *Climate Change. The issues of climate change remains a concern for the business community. What is your position and your party’s position on the most important steps that need to be taken in the next year to address this issue?*

AS Response: Politicians need to be careful supporting the loudest words that may provide detrimental effects in the long run. Simply look at the history of failures or environmental projects that left negative impact. The life on the North Shore has incredible beauty and power that needs to stay in balance while accommodating constant growth and evolution. I’ve seen projects where recyclables are collected in different bins and then dumped in one pile because infrastructure to recycle material is incomplete or simply not sustainable (Russia). I’ve also been told about amazing natural resource management with limited lands where forests are lush and filled with wildlife (Germany). No need to experiment. We can learn from experiences around the World. We have material to study and carefully implement solutions because we all want to breathe clean air, drink fresh water and enjoy our wonderful outdoors. One of

the concerns are large ships being parked in Burrard Inlet. This needs to be reviewed and improved. We already have groups and organizations demanding actions. They need to come forward with economically viable solutions. Simply saying stop cutting forest is not going to help the same person finding a home to live that is made out of wood. Natural resource management needs to be smart and sustainable. I would fully support a program for children exploring forests and nature so they learn the value of natural resources by touching them and taking care of them. We are simply unable to live without fresh air and clean water.

QUESTION 5. Retraining Underemployed Workforce to Meet Opportunities in the BC Tech Sector. The NV Chamber has championed a provincial call for the funding of retraining and skill enrichment that will help more fully employ new Canadians and other individuals with technical aptitude to support the growing needs of our growing local and provincial technology sector. What is your position on this and what steps would you take to tap into this talent and economic potential in our community?

AS Response: In the 1990s USSR gave a green light to business innovation. During unprecedented instability small businesses grew daily. There was no end to innovation and solutions. The North Shore has a valuable resource and they are local businesses. Ask them what they need and how they can use this opportunity for the benefit of the society and the city. People need freedom and feel empowered to work. Innovate and build a happy house, home, city and the province where they live. Examples in my life of poor policies can serve as a clear direction where problems may be. I was unable to get a loan from Canadian bank. Overseas bank that is now established in Canada gave me a loan at higher cost to me. Policy creators took income from Canadian banks and gave it away. I guarantee that I'm not the only person with this experience. My job as an MLA is to dig deep for problems like this and after careful review fix them. My job is to put policies in place created by people, small and medium businesses and not large corporations that often turn people into modern world slaves. My job as an MLA is to deploy policies created exclusively by Canadians! Then come back every year and to verify if this was a good decision.

